

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-12, 14, and 15 are pending in the present application. Claim 13 is hereby canceled. Claims 1, 12, and 14 have been amended. Claims 3-6 were withdrawn from consideration by the Examiner as being directed to a non-elected species. Claims 1, 12, and 14 are independent claims. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider his rejections in view of the Amendments and the following Remarks.

Interview on June 20, 2007

Applicants wish to thank Examiner John R. Schnurr and Supervisory Patent Examiner Christopher Grant for taking the time to conduct a personal interview with Applicants' representative, Jason Rhodes (Reg. No. 47,305), in order to discuss the present application. The substance of the interview is as follows.

Claims Discussed: Claim 1

Prior Art Discussed: U.S. Patent No. 5,818,935 to Maa (hereafter "Maa"); U.S. Patent No. 5,901,339 to Saito (hereafter "Saito")

Proposed Amendments: The above amendment of claim 1 was discussed as a proposed amendment during the interview.

General Results: Agreement was reached that the above amendment overcomes the § 103 rejection based on Maa and Saito. Specifically, as discussed in the Interview Summary, it was agreed that amending claim 1 to distinguish the claimed limitation information from the content identifier would distinguish over the Examiner's interpretation of the applied art.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1 and 7-12, 14, and 15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Maa in view of Saito. This rejection, insofar as it pertains to the presently pending claims, is respectfully traversed.

Independent claim 1 has been amended to recite that the first communication signal includes a plurality of contents with corresponding content identifiers, and limitation information for a particular content. Claim 1 further requires an output section to prevent normal outputting of at least one portion of the particular content when a match is not detected between the release information and the limitation information.

In the Office Action, the Examiner relied on Saito to teach the matching of limitation information with release information, citing Fig. 5 and col. 7, lines 35-45. However, the Examiner interpreted Saito's *program number* (i.e., content identifier) as the claimed limitation information. As agreed upon during the interview, such interpretation is no longer permissible in view of the above amendment.

Further, Applicants respectfully submit that similar amendments have been made to independent claims 12 and 14. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that amended claims 12 and 14 distinguish over the Examiner's interpretation of Saito, similar to claim 1.

At least for the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claims 1, 12, and 14 are allowable. Accordingly, claims 7-11 and 15 are allowable at least by virtue of their dependency on claim 1. Therefore, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw this rejection.

Further, as claim 1 is now in condition for allowance, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 3-6 should now be considered by the Examiner and allowed.

Conclusion

In view of the above amendments and remarks, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider the outstanding rejections and issue a Notice of Allowance in the present application.

Should the Examiner believe that any outstanding matters remain in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Jason W. Rhodes (Reg. No. 47,305) at the telephone number of the undersigned to discuss the present application in an effort to expedite prosecution.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated: July 24, 2007

Respectfully submitted,

By

 #47,305
D. Richard Anderson

Registration No.: 40,439

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

8110 Gatehouse Road

Suite 100 East

P.O. Box 747

Falls Church, Virginia 22040-0747

(703) 205-8000

Attorney for Applicant